

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 00050 120217Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /067 W

-----120221Z 011696 /71

R 112155Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2008

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0050

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV BP

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

1. UK HIGH COMMISSIONER BAKER TOLD ME JAN 11 THAT FORMER CHIEF MINISTER MAMALONI HAS RESIGNED FROM LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL. DEPUTY LEADER OF OPPOSITION (AQARAO) UNEXPECTEDLY DIED IN EARLY DECEMBER, ALLEGEDLY BECAUSE OF CARDIAC ARREST WHILE PLAYING TENNIS. RUMORS BEGAN CIRCULATING, ACCORDING TO BAKER, THAT DEATH WAS CAUSED BY SORCERY. WHISPERED ACCUSATIONS AGAINST MAMALONI WERE FOLLOWED BY THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE. THEREUPON MAMALONI RESIGNED ON DEC 24. CHIEF MINISTER KENILOREA TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM TO WITHDRAW RESIGNATION, BUT HE WAS ADAMANT.

2. COMMENT: BAKER BELIEVES, AND I AGREE, THAT THESE DEVELOPMENTS WILL HAVE DESTABILIZING IMPACT ON POLITICAL SITUATION. MAMALONI HAS HISTORY OF MENTAL INSTABILITY AND, FREED FROM RESPONSIBILITY (BUT NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 00050 120217Z

FROM AMBITION), HE COULD GO OFF ON ANY ONE OF SEVERAL UNFORTUNATE TANGENTS.

3. BAKER SPECULATED THAT THREATS AGAINST MAMALONI'S LIFE WERE POLITICALLY STIMULATED. THIS MAY BE CORRECT, BUT IS NOT NECESSARILY SO. GIVEN THE STRONG MELANESIAN BELIEF IN WITCHCRAFT, THIS EPISODE COULD

HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY NONPOLITICAL IN CAUSE IF NOT IN
EFFECT.
OLMSTED

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL LEADERS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTM00050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770011-0173
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770163/aaaacctr.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8f132fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3624994
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BP, (MAMALONI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8f132fdb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009